

PROVIDING FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LANDS
OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE BOARD OF COMMIS-
SIONERS OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLA.

JUNE 8, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. BONNER, from the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 9774]

The Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9774) to provide for the conveyance of certain lands of the United States to the Board of Commissioners of Volusia County, Fla., having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

On line 3, page 1, delete the words "Secretary of the Treasury" and in lieu thereof insert the words "Administrator of General Service".

On line 4, page 1, after the word "convey" insert the words "for public purposes".

On line 5, page 1, after the word "Florida," insert the words
at a price equal to 50 per centum of the fair market value of
the property as determined by the Administrator, General
Services,

Add the following new section:

SEC. 2. The conveyance authorized by this Act shall contain the following conditions:

(1) a condition that no structure shall be erected on the property conveyed which would in any way obscure or otherwise interfere with the usefulness or visibility of the light or tower, and

(2) a condition that in the event the property so conveyed to such county ceases to be used for public purposes, title therein shall revert to the United States.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The bill H. R. 9774, with committee amendments, would authorize and direct the Administrator of General Services to convey by quitclaim deed two parcels of land to the Board of Commissioners of Volusia County, Fla. These parcels are parts of a 10-acre tract upon which the Ponce de Leon Light Station is presently located. The land sought to be conveyed has been declared excess to the needs of the Coast Guard, with the reservation of a right-of-way as provided in the bill.

Since this property is intended to be used for public purposes in connection with park and recreational activities, your committee has adopted an amendment providing that it be conveyed at a price equal to 50 percent of the fair market value, thereby conforming to the policy of the Government as set forth in Public Law 616, 80th Congress.

This bill, in amended form, makes no changes in existing law.

The departmental reports are as follows:

MAY 24, 1956.

HON. HERBERT C. BONNER,

*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,
House of Representatives, Washington 25, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Reference is made to the request of your committee for the views of the Treasury Department on H. R. 9774, to provide for the conveyance of certain lands of the United States to the Board of Commissioners of Volusia County, Fla.

The purpose of the bill is to convey by quitclaim deed to the Board of Commissioners of Volusia County, Fla., the title of the United States in two parcels of land which are parts of the larger tract upon which the Ponce de Leon Light Station is located. The light station is now automatic and unattended. The land sought to be conveyed by the bill has been found to be in excess of the needs of the Coast Guard, with the reservation of a right-of-way as provided in the bill. The 10 acres in the present Ponce de Leon Light Station Reservation were purchased in 1883 at a total cost of \$400. There are no buildings on the parcels of land sought to be conveyed.

It is recommended that the bill be amended to provide that the conveyance of the land be on condition that no structure shall be erected thereon which would in any way obscure or otherwise interfere with the usefulness or visibility of the light or tower. It is also suggested that consideration be given to whether it would not be appropriate for the county to pay the Government the fair value of the property since it would be conveyed free of restrictions as to public use.

The Department has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee. There is attached for the information of the committee a copy of a letter from the Bureau of the Budget containing further comments on H. R. 9774.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) DAVID W. KENDALL,
Acting Secretary of the Treasury.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington 25, D. C., May 21, 1956.

The Honorable THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

(Attention: Mr. Hugo Ranta, Room 2000, Treasury Building.)

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: This will acknowledge Mr. Scribner's letter of April 24, 1956, transmitting the report which the Treasury Department proposes to submit to the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries with respect to H. R. 9774, to provide for the conveyance of certain lands of the United States to the Board of Commissioners of Volusia County, Fla.

You are advised that while there would be no objection to such report as you may deem appropriate, it is believed that the property covered by this bill should be declared as excess to the General Services Administration and that it should be disposed of under the provision of existing law pertaining to the disposal of surplus property. While not specifically stated, it is assumed that the Board of Commissioners of Volusia County, Fla. desire to buy this property for some form of public use. In this event it could probably be disposed of to the board of commissioners under the provisions of existing law which permit transfer at 50 percent of fair value, provided there is an actual need for the proposed public use. Again, assuming some public use, it is believed any transfer of this property should preserve to the Government a reversionary right in the event that it ceases to be used for public purposes at any time in the future. If the property is not wanted for a public use such as a park, it should be sold at full market value.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROGER W. JONES,
Assistant Director for Legislative Reference;

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Executive Order of the President
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

The President, in his Executive Order of June 1960, (Executive Order 11694) directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the public lands in the State of Alaska. The study was to be completed by the end of 1961. The Secretary has now completed the study and has submitted a report to the President. The report is being submitted to the President for his review and approval. The report contains a detailed description of the public lands in Alaska, including a list of the lands and a description of their location and extent. The report also contains a description of the uses of the lands and a description of the management of the lands. The report is being submitted to the President for his review and approval. The President is expected to sign the report and to issue an Executive Order directing the Secretary to carry out the recommendations of the report.

Respectfully,
John W. Davis
Secretary of the Interior